



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

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HOME Investment Partnerships Program announces three successful applicants for first round

Total proposed project costs are almost \$9 million

(HELENA) – On April 13, 2007, the Montana Department of Commerce (MDOC) finalized its application review process for the HOME Investment Partnerships (HOME) Program. The MDOC has tentatively awarded \$1.5 million in funding to applications in Lewistown, Red Lodge, and Whitefish. The HOME funds will help finance new rental construction, single-family acquisition and rehabilitation efforts in these communities.

“The HOME program provides much needed assistance to Montana’s working families,” said Governor Brian Schweitzer. “HOME funds help make quality, safe, affordable housing a reality for many Montanans.”

Eight applicants competed for just over \$2 million in HOME funds available for the 2007 program year. The projects in Lewistown, Red Lodge and Whitefish will add 60 safe and affordable units to the housing market. The total proposed project cost for the three projects is about \$8.9 million.

“The Montana Department of Commerce uses the HOME program to create affordable housing and stimulate our local economies,” said Commerce Director Anthony Preite.

“Montana’s workforce also benefits from the good paying jobs created in construction, property management and property maintenance.”

The MDOC receives HOME funds through a formula grant from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to fund a wide range of activities that provide affordable housing for rent or homeownership or provide direct rental assistance to low-income households.

The MDOC HOME Program will hold a second application round for the remaining \$548,507 in 2007 HOME funds. Applications for the second round of funding will be due August 1, 2007 and must comply with the 2007 HOME Program Application Guidelines. Only MDOC-certified Community Housing Development Organizations (CHDOs) doing CHDO-eligible activities will be eligible for the second round. Applications must be received at the MDOC HOME Program office by 5:00 pm on August 1, 2007, or postmarked before 5pm that day. Projects proposed within the city limits of Billings, Great Falls, and Missoula are eligible during this second round.

For information on HOME Program, visit housing.mt.gov or call 406-841-2820.

Project information:

Lewistown

Project Name: Ouellette Place
Applicant: City of Lewistown
Project Type: Rental New Project and Acquisition/Rehab
HOME Award: \$500,000
Total Project Cost: \$3,652,599
Contact/Phone: Duane Ferdinand, City of Lewistown, 406-535-1775

Red Lodge

Project Name: Mountain Springs Villa
Applicant: Montana HomeOwnership Network (MHN)
Project Type: Mobile Home Park Acquisition/Rehab
HOME Award: \$500,000
Total Project Cost: \$2,622,500
Contact/Phone: Sheila Rice, MHN, 406-761-5861

Whitefish

Project Name: 2007 Homeownership Program
Applicant: City of Whitefish
Project Type: Single-Family Housing Acquisition/New Construction
HOME Award: \$500,000

Total Project Cost: \$2,709,150
Contact/Phone: SueAnn Grogan, Whitefish Housing Authority, 406-862-4143

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